<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend Claims 4, 9, 12, and 25 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A document processing system comprising:

folder retainer means for retaining a plurality of folders, each of the folders storing at least one document;

new document retainer means for retaining a new document;

a folder search device for searching the plurality of folders to identify at least one candidate folder from the plurality of folders suitable for storing the new document, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of the documents stored in at least one candidate folder among the plurality of folders, wherein the at least one candidate folder has documents more similar to the new document than other documents in the plurality of folders; and

controlling means for controlling to store the new document into a selected folder selected by a user from the plurality of folders searched by said folder search device.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A document processing system according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of candidate folders suitable for saving the new document are searched and a list of a plurality of searched candidate folders is displayed.

4. (Currently Amended) A document processing system according to claim 1, wherein <u>prior to the searching of a plurality of folders,</u> said folder search device ~~comprises:~~

~~judging means for judging~~ <u>judges</u> a similarity degree representing a similarity between a feature of the new document ~~to be stored~~ and an average of features of ~~a plurality of sets of document information of~~ the plurality of documents stored in each folder<u>;</u> ~~and~~

~~storing means for storing the plurality of folders in accordance with~~ <u>so that</u> the judged similarity degree <u>is used when a feature of the new document is compared with an average of features of the plurality of documents</u>.

5. to 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A document processing method <u>of retaining a plurality of folders, each having at least one document, in a folder retaining memory in a document processing system</u>, the method comprising the steps of:

searching a plurality of folders<u>, when a new document is retained,</u> in ~~a document processing system which includes a processing unit and memory~~ <u>the folder retaining memory</u> to identify at least one candidate folder from the plurality of folders suitable for storing a new document, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of documents stored in at least one candidate folder among the plurality of folders, wherein the at least one candidate folder has documents more similar to the new document than other documents in the plurality of folders; and

~~controlling to store~~ <u>storing</u> the new document into a selected folder selected by a user from the plurality of folders searched in said searching step.

10. (Previously Presented) A document processing method according to Claim 9, the step of searching further comprising the steps of:

judging a similarity degree representing a similarity between a feature of the new document to be stored and an average of features of a plurality of sets of document information of the plurality of documents stored in each folder; and

storing the plurality of folders in accordance with the judged similarity degree.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing ~~programs~~ <u>a program for</u> executing <u>a method of retaining a plurality of folders, each having at least one document, in a folder retaining memory in a document processing system, the method comprising</u> the steps of:

searching a plurality of folders to identify at least one candidate folder from the plurality of folders suitable for storing a new document, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of documents stored in at least one candidate folder among the plurality of folders, wherein the at least one candidate folder has documents more similar to the new document than other documents in the plurality of folders; and

~~controlling to store~~ <u>storing</u> the new document into a selected folder selected by a user from the plurality of folders searched in said searching step.

13.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of selecting further comprises the steps of:

judging a similarity degree representing a similarity between a feature of the new document to be stored and an average of features of a plurality of sets of document information of a plurality of documents stored in each folder; and

storing the plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity judged in said judging step.

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein a plurality of candidate folders suitable for saving the new document are searched and a list of a plurality of searched candidate folders is displayed.

16.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 12, wherein a plurality of candidate folders suitable for saving the new document are searched and a list of a plurality of searched candidate folders is displayed.

17.   (Original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising means for updating the feature of the folder in response to saving of the new document in the candidate folder.

18.   (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the document includes vector data.

19.   (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the candidate folder has a high-level rank as determined by the result of the search by said folder searcher.

20.   (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 68, wherein said notifying means displays a label which is set in advance to indicate the candidate folder.

21.   (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the document includes text data.

22.   (Original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising means for causing the selected candidate folder to save the new document.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of updating the feature of the folder in response to saving of the new document in the candidate folder.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the document includes vector data.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the candidate folder has a high-level rank as determined by the ~~result~~ results of the ~~searched~~ search.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 69, wherein said notifying step includes displaying a label which is set in advance to indicate the candidate folder.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the document comprises text data.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of causing the selected candidate folder to save the new document.

29.   (Original) A storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the steps further comprise the step of updating the feature of the folder in response to saving of the new document in the candidate folder.

30.   (Original) A storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the document includes vector data.

31.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the candidate folder has a high-level rank as determined by the result of the search.

32.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 70, wherein said notifying step includes displaying a label which is set in advance to indicate the candidate folder.

33.   (Original) A storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the document comprises text data.

34.   (Original) A storage medium according to claim 12, wherein said steps further comprise the step of causing the selected candidate folder to save the new document.

35.   (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 4, further comprising notifying means for notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder by said

folder searcher wherein said notifying means provides notification only of a predetermined number of folders which have a high rank of similarity order.

36. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 4, further comprising notifying means for notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder by said folder searcher wherein the document is stored in at least one folder mentioned in the notification provided by said notifying means.

37. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 4, further comprising notifying means for notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder by said folder searcher wherein said notifying means displays a label set in advance to the selected folder.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 4, wherein the document includes text data.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein notification is provided only of a predetermined number of folders which have a high rank of similarity order.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said

searching step wherein the document is stored in at least one folder mentioned in the notification provided in said notifying step.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein said notifying step includes displaying a label set in advance to the selected folder.

42. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the document includes text data.

43. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 13, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein notification is provided only of a predetermined number of folders which have a high rank of similarity order.

44. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 13 further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein the document is stored in at least one folder mentioned in the notification provided in said notifying step.

45. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 13, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched

in said searching step wherein said notifying step includes displaying a label set in advance to the selected folder.

46.   (Original) A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the document includes text data.

47. to 62. (Cancelled)

63.   (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 68, wherein said notifying means notifies of only the plurality of candidate folders searched by said folder searcher means to a user.

64.   (Cancelled)

65.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 69, wherein said notifying step notifies of only the plurality of candidate folders searched in said candidate folder searching step to a user.

66.   (Cancelled)

67.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 70, wherein said notifying step notifies of only the plurality of candidate folders searched in said candidate folder searching step to a user.

68.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 1, further comprising notifying means for notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder by said folder searcher.

69.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 9, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step.

70.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 12, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step.